



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kathy Briseno	Carolyn Broughton (non-voting)	Alan Dietrich	Lisa Hampton
Seth Harkins	Julianna Harms	Maureen Haugh-Stover	
Toni Hoy	Merlin Lehman	Dee Ann Ryan	Gary Seelbach
Randy Staton	Julie Stremlau		

MEMBERS ABSENT

Robert Bloom	Michele Carmichael	William Delgado	David Elder
Susan Fonfa	Brittany Stern		

STAFF PRESENT

Mindy Miller	Lynn Lowder	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel
Robert Watts			

LIAISONS PRESENT

None

GUESTS

Margaret Vimont, Jewish Children and Family Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Members, staff and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 14, 2014 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the August 14, 2014 Authority meeting.

MOTION: *Randy Staton moved and Kathy Briseno seconded that the minutes of the August 14, 2014 Authority meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Staff Activity Report** for August and September 2014.
- **A HFS Care Coordination Expansion Map** graphically depicting the current phase of the HFS Case Coordination Expansion. Director Schornagel stated that he provided the map as a follow up activity to the HFS SASS/Cares presentation at the August meeting.
- **CRSA Document titled Existing Policy Tier in Illinois.** Director Schornagel explained that this is a CRSA overview document which was written for and distributed to members of the Governance Breakout Workgroup which is part of the Children's Services Subcommittee of the Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT) group. Director Schornagel stated that he introduced the document which was then discussed by the Workgroup. He commented that the document was written and provided as an overview of the structure and function of the CRSA specifically for consideration by GOHIT. He added that several of the Children's Services Sub-Committee Breakout Workgroups have already completed their work and have made recommendations which will be reviewed and considered by GOHIT perhaps as early as January 2015. He added that he will send to the CRSA board a 20 page overview and description of the GOHIT Children's Service Subcommittee charter so that interested members can better understand the larger GOHIT planning process

Director Schornagel reported that The Illinois Association of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE) has notified CRSA that Kevin Rubenstein has been appointed as the IAASE Liaison to CRSA. Kevin is a special education administrator in the Lake Bluff School district # 65. Mr. Rubenstein will fill the IAASE Liaison vacancy created by the retirement last year of former IAASE Liaison, Bill Pumo, who served in that capacity for many years. Director Schornagel also reported that CRSA recently posted position vacancy notices in several newspapers in northern Illinois and has received application packets from individuals interested in filling the vacant CRSA Regional Coordinator position. He added that he, along with CRSA Chairperson Seelbach and Regional Coordinator Debbi Smith will be interviewing applicants in November.

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that CRSA continues to experience a sharp uptick in referrals involving tangible risks for lock-out and/or custody relinquishment in FY 15 and that at last count, this group of referrals account for more than 30% of CRSA's caseload. He added that because PA 98-0808 (The Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act) has an implementation date in July 2015, the CRSA has been carefully documenting and tracking CRSA FY 15 referrals involving imminent risk for psychiatric lockouts and/or of custody relinquishments. He added that CRSA is making that data available to member agencies and other stakeholders who are involved in lockout and custody relinquishment activities. Discussing ensued. Toni Hoy reminded the Authority that the legislature set aside seven million dollars for use in FY 15, specifically to prevent custody relinquishments. She

clarified that that money which was set aside was initially requested by DHS/DMH, for its Individual Care Grant (ICG) program. She added that there are discussions occurring now involving Representative Feighholtz and other stakeholders to explore ways to connect children and families at risk of custody relinquishment to the set aside resources. Seth Harkins expressed his ongoing concerns about state of the ICG program, referencing the ever dismissing numbers of children being served through the program, the absence of published ICG Annual Reports for FY 13 and FY 14 and the lack of accountability for the overall management of the ICG program. He commented that as far as he can discern, only 12 children received ICG in FY 14, and that only 8 children are rumored to have been awarded ICGs thus far in FY 15. He requested that the CRSA correspond with DHS administration, with copies to the Office of Attorney General, and Benjamin Wolfe, candidly expressing concerns and requesting acceptability for the current state of the ICG program. Dee Ann Ryan commented that Medicaid eligible families at risk of custody relinquishment should be funneled directly to the three named attorneys associated with the N.B. lawsuit so that those kids could get the services that they need as quickly as possible. Maureen Haugh-Stover cautioned the Authority to use a consistent definition of lock-out and custody relinquishment as it develops related data-base. Director Schornagel commented that assertive lock-out coaching is increasing on cases seen by CRSA in FY 15 and that perhaps the custody relinquishment prevention act and the N.B. lawsuits have both become convenient systemic lightning rods attracting children and families trying to get needed services from and all public agencies.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

None

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Director Schornagel informed that Authority the CRSA FY 16 budgeting process is now underway. He commented that historically CRSA dovetails its budget planning process with that of the ISBE, typically putting a proposed budget for the following year before the CRSA board for consideration and adoption at CRSA's December Meeting and then communicating that to ISBE for inclusion in its budget in December. He added that he has proposed an initial CRSA FY 16 budget request of \$620,200.00 and communicated that amount to ISBE to meet the Governor's Office deadline of October 1, 2014 for initial appropriation requests. He informed the Authority that he will bring the detailed FY 16 budget request before the CRSA for consideration, discussion and possible adoption at the December Authority meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Policy & Communications Committee

Committee-Co-Chairperson, Kathy Briseno reported that the Policy and Communications Committee met on September 10, 2014. Dr. Briseno reported the Committee continued to discuss the CRSA's current population description and has concluded that periodically changing the CRSA population description to achieve ongoing alignment with both federal and state target populations has positive value. She added that the Committee opined that consumers are well served by CRSA keeping pace with ongoing legislative initiatives and that this practice necessitates making periodic statutory adjustments/alignments to CRSA's population description as the continuously changing system reveals new pockets of children and families who are "falling between the cracks". She also reported that the Committee discussed the idea of CRSA possibly tracking and reporting the race/ethnicity of individuals served by the CRSA. She remarked that the Committee discussed the issue in broad concept terms and in operational terms beginning to identify both the pros and cons of CRSA actively tracking the race/ethnicity of those it serves as it does with other identifying information such as the age, sex and location of children who are the beneficiaries of CRSA services. She added that the Committee would like to review some research on the issues before coming to conclusions or making recommendations to the full Authority. Dr. Briseno also reported that the Committee discussed the content and the current focus of the CRSA Annual Reports and will revisit both as it reviews the FY 14 CRSA Annual Report draft. Dr. Briseno informed that the Authority would next be meeting in November 2014 and has agreed to discuss the suggestion that CRSA perform background checks for newly hired CRSA employees as part of the employment process.

B. Executive Committee

Chairperson Seelbach informed the Authority that most of items discussed in Executive Committee have been covered in earlier agenda items with the following exception. Mr. Seelbach reported that the Executive Committee discussed the issue of binding authority or binding arbitration as the Authority addresses the needs for CRSA to seek greater working authority and accountability as the service system in Illinois evolves and as the nature of service disputes change. He added that the Committee also discussed the need for new tools to resolve anticipated disputes arising from the expanding role of private corporations in the day-to-day operations of the child and adolescent service system in Illinois, particularly involving service/funding denials by private insurance companies and case management organizations. The Executive Committee discussed changing the membership of the Authority to reflect these systemic changes and challenges. He added that initial membership changes discussed include: adding the Illinois Department of Insurance and the Illinois Department of Public Health to the CRSA as member agencies, as well as, shifting the legislative designees on the Authority from the Education Committee to the Appropriations in the Senate, and from the Elementary and

Secondary Education Committee to the Human Services Appropriation Committee in the House.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Seelbach announced that he recently met with a group of former CRSA board members and took the opportunity to give them an update on CRSA issues. The group includes former CRSA Chairpersons, Dwight Lambert and Ron Waldschmidt, as well as, former State agency designees, Charlie Martin, Bob Smith and Kenly Wade. He commented that they all expressed their condolences over the recent passing of Jude DeAngelo and Brooke Whitted.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Randy Staton seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:06 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*